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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

June 27, 2017

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bishop:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express its support for the highest level of funding possible for the following programs of critical importance to the County in the *FY 2018 Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill*:

Pest Detection and Prevention, Specialty Crops, and other programs

The Section 10201 program provides funding to State and local agencies to prevent the introduction or spread of plant pests and diseases. With a total annual crop value of \$1.9 billion and protecting the County's more than 40 different crops from destructive pests and diseases is crucial. Section 10201 enables the County Agricultural Commissioner to respond quickly to prevent the spread of these harmful pests and diseases.

Other programs of importance to the County include the Specialty Crop Block Grant program, the Specialty Crop Research program, and the Food Safety & Inspection Service, as well as USDA's Rural Development programs.

Women, Infants, & Children

The County's Public Health Department operates the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) nutrition program and currently serves over 24,000 clients at nine locations. A high level of funding for WIC will allow Santa Barbara County to continue serve families that need assistance.

As your subcommittee begins its consideration of the *FY 2018 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill*, please support the highest level of funding possible for these programs.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:awg

